HERITAGE AUDIT OF THE UNICORN HOTEL, SHEEP STREET, STOW ON THE WOLD, GLOUCETERSHIRE

Shona Robson-Glyde, Hal Dalwood, Erica Darch and Anna Deeks

Illustrated by Shona Robson-Glyde, Carloyn Hunt and Laura Templeton

20th October 2003 Revised 30th October 2003

© Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council

Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, Woodbury, University College Worcester, Henwick Grove, Worcester WR2 6AJ

Project 2441 Report 1187

Contents

Part 1 Project summary

Part 2 Detailed report

1.	Background	2
1.1	Reasons for the project	2
1.2	Project parameters	. 2
1.3	Aims	
2.	Yethods	3
2.1	Documentary search	
2.2	Fieldwork	4
2.	.1 Fieldwork strategy	4
2.	.2 Structural analysis	4
2.3	Artefacts	4
2.	.1 Artefact recovery policy	4
2.	.2 Method of analysis	4
2.4	Building recording	. 5
2.5	The methods in retrospect	. 5
3.	Archaeological and historical context	
4.	inventory of buildings	
4.1	The Unicorn Hotel (Plates 1-3)	10
4.2	Kent House and The Crook (Plate 4)	10
4.3	The Cottage (Plate 5)	
4.4	'The barn' (Plate 6)	
5.	Description of archaeological deposits	11
5.1	Natural deposits	11
5.2	Test Pit 1	11
5.3	Test Pit 2	11
5.4	Test Pit 3	11
5.5	Artefact analysis	
5.		
	.2 Discussion of the artefact assemblage	
6.	Interpretation of the standing buildings, archaeological deposits and past land-use	
6.1	Medieval (and undated)	
6.2	Sixteenth century and seventeenth century	
6.3	Early eighteenth century	
6.4	Mid eighteenth century	
6.5	Late eighteenth century	
6.6	Early nineteenth century	
6.7	Early-mid nineteenth	
6.8	Mid nineteenth century	
6.9	Late nineteenth century	
6.10	Twentieth century	
7.	Conclusions and implications	
7.1	Hotel refurbishment	
7.2	Conversion of 'The Barn'	
7.3	Boundary walls and sheds	
7.4	Proposed swimming pool	
7.5	Proposed furniture store	
8.	Publication summary	
9.	The archive	
10.	Acknowledgements	
11.	Personnel	
12.	Bibliography	
13.	Abbreviations	21

1

Heritage audit of The Unicorn Hotel, Sheep Street, Stow on the Wold, Gloucestershire

Shona Robson-Glyde, Hal Dalwood, Erica Darch and Anna Deeks

Part 1 Project summary

A heritage audit was undertaken at The Unicorn Hotel, Stow on the Wold. It was undertaken on behalf of Birch Hotels and Inns Ltd, who intend to upgrade the hotel by refurbishing the hotel, and converting ancillary buildings and two other buildings currently in separate ownership. The project aimed to undertake a non-intrusive study of the buildings involved and to evaluate the documentary and map evidence, but included observation of engineer's test pits.

The audit identified a range of historic buildings, dating between the 16th and the 19th century, and established the outlines of the historic development of this part of Stow from the medieval period. The historic character of the individual buildings and associated back plots was established. Limited evidence for medieval occupation was recorded in test pits, although deep undated deposits were observed.

The implications of current draft proposals are discussed.

Part 2 Detailed report

1. Background

Reasons for the project

A heritage audit was undertaken for The Unicorn Hotel, Sheep Street, Stow on the Wold (NGR SP 1902 2569), on behalf of Birch Hotels and Inns Ltd The development site comprises a number of listed buildings and lies within the medieval town of Stow on the Wold (Figs 1 and 2). The project was commissioned by Andrew Eastabrook (Eastabrook Architects, Kent House, Sheep Street, Stow on the Wold, Gloucestershire).

The client intends to upgrade the existing hotel, and to incorporate a number of neighbouring buildings in Sheep Street ('The Cottage' [formerly 'Cotswold Cottage'], 'Kent House' and 'The Crook'). The Unicorn Hotel is a listed building, as is the extension on Fosse Road and 'The Cottage' (all Grade II). The heritage audit was commissioned in advance of the completion of detailed plans to redevelop the hotel and the adjacent buildings. English Heritage have confirmed the need for a heritage audit to inform the process of listed building consent. It is intended that this report will inform the decision-making process, involving English Heritage, Cotswold District Council, and Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service.

1.2 **Project parameters**

The project conforms to the Standard and guidance for archaeological desk-based assessment (IFA 1999a), Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief (IFA 1999b), and Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures (IFA 1999c).

The project was conceived as a non-intrusive study, involving only visual inspection and documentary and map-based research. Immediately prior to the start of project, three small engineer's test pits were dug in garden areas by a contractor. The opportunity was taken within this project to record the exposed archaeological deposits and to study the artefacts retrieved by the contractor.

It is acknowledged that although an indepth historical study would have benefited the project this was deferred for future consideration.

1.3 **Aims**

The aims of the heritage audit were to undertake a non-intrusive study, involving visual inspection and documentary and map-based research. In the event it was also possible to record archaeological deposits in engineer's test pits in the gardens. The purpose of the audit was to establish the significance of the buildings and the potential impact of the proposed development, and to form an opinion on the archaeological potential of the development area.

2. Methods

2.1 **Documentary search**

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Gloucestershire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). In addition the following sources were also consulted:

Cartographic sources

- Ordnance Survey 1885 1st edition. Sheet xxii.14 and xxii.13. 1:2500
- Ordnance Survey 1902. Sheet xxii.14 and xxii.13. 1:2500
- Ordnance Survey 1921. Sheet xxii.14 and xxii.13. 1:2500
- Ordnance Survey 1955. Sheet SP12NE. 1:10560
- Ordnance Survey 1976. Sheet xxii.14 and xxii.13. 1:2500

Documentary sources

• Gloucestershire County Records Office

GRO Acquisition No	Date	Description
D1395 111/46	1872-73	Messuage in Sheep Street with three workshops and
		two newly erected messuages
D2080/372	1808	Valuation of effects, Unicorn Hotel
D2080/372	1828	Valuation of effects, Unicorn Hotel
GPS 317/9 (PH 416)	C1920s	Photograph of old postcard – The Unicorn Hotel on
		Fosse Road

Principal published sources

- Clapham, V (ed) 2000, *Stow on the Wold. Glimpses of the past.* Stow on the Wold and District Civic Society
- Elrington, C R, and Morgan, K, 1965 Stow-on-the-Wold, in *The Victoria County History of Gloucestershire*, **6**, 142-165
- Johnson, J, 1980, Stow-on-the Wold: a history of a Cotswold town. Alan Sutton
- Johnson, J, 1994, Stow-on-the-Wold, Alan Sutton
- Leech, R, 1981 *Historic towns in Gloucestershire: archaeology and planning,* Committee for Rescue Archaeology in Avon, Gloucestershire and Somerset, survey report **3**
- Ogilby, 1675 (1939) Britannia, volume the first, or an illustration of the kingdom of England and the dominion of Wales by a geographical and historical description of the roads thereof, reprint Alexandre Duckham (1939)
- Smith, A H, 1964, The place-names of Gloucestershire, parts I-III, Cambridge

- Verey, D, 1979 Buildings of England. Gloucestershire: The Cotswolds
- Pigot, 1830 *Directory of Gloucestershire*
- Pigot, 1842 Directory of Gloucestershire
- Pigot, 1844 Directory of Gloucestershire
- Slater, 1852 Directory of Gloucestershire
- Kelly, 1856 Post Office Directory of Gloucestershire
- Slater, 1858 Directory of Gloucestershire
- Harrison, 1859 Directory of Gloucestershire
- Kelly, 1863 Post Office Directory of Gloucestershire

2.2 Fieldwork

2.2.1 Fieldwork strategy

Fieldwork was undertaken between 26 September and 16 October 2003.

The building inspection consisted of a complete review of the interior and exterior of the Unicorn Hotel and 'The Cottage'. Notes were taken and the architect's plans and elevations were annotated with additional information whilst on site. A large number of general photographs were taken of The Unicorn and adjoining buildings and also detail shots of any important architectural elements.

Three engineer's test pits were examined in rear garden areas (site code P2441). The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 3. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Service practice (CAS 1995).

2.2.2 Structural analysis

All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Analysis was effected through a combination of structural, artefactual and ecofactual evidence, allied to the information derived from other sources.

2.3 Artefacts

2.3.1 Artefact recovery policy

The contractors who dug the test pits retrieved all artefacts. They have been retained and recorded in accordance with the service manual (CAS 1995 as amended).

2.3.2 Method of analysis

All finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus* post quem date was produced for each stratified context. The date was used for

determining the broad date of phases defined for the site. All information was recorded on *pro forma* sheets.

Pottery fabrics are referenced to the Worcestershire fabric reference series maintained by the Service (Hurst and Rees 1992).

2.4 **Building recording**

The project conformed to the specification for a photographic survey as defined by the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England (RCHME 1996). It consisted of an inspection of the buildings. Photographs were taken of the exterior of the buildings and of any interesting internal features. The camera used was a Fujifilm digital camera Finepix S602zoom.

2.5 **The methods in retrospect**

Although the development will eventually include the take-over of Kent House and The Crook by the Unicorn Hotel, at the time of this survey these two buildings were in private ownership and therefore were not included within the building inspection. The Cottage, whilst it is within the ownership of the hotel, is used as staff accommodation and therefore a complete inspection could not be made. The methods of the project could not be resolved to accommodate these problems but little further information on the development of the Unicorn and its associated buildings could have been discovered from the inclusion of these elements into this survey.

The heritage audit included a building inspection of The Unicorn Hotel and its associated buildings. This inspection led to the basic phasing being drawn up. However a building inspection does not allow for in-depth analysis and survey of a complex group of buildings. The phasing of the buildings is only preliminary and may change if a more detailed building survey or historical research into the buildings is undertaken.

3. Archaeological and historical context

Historiography and archaeological assessment

The historical development of Stow has been authoritatively described in the Victoria County History (Elrington and Morgan 1965). This account has been built on by local historical studies, which tend to focus on the post-medieval period (e.g. Clapham (ed) 2000, Johnson 1980, Johnson 1994). The historic buildings have been surveyed in outline (Verey 1979, 637-645). Urban archaeological surveys have reviewed documentary, archaeological and topographic evidence and produced outline syntheses of Stow's historic environment and archaeological potential (Leech 1981, 79-81; Douthwaite and Devine 1996).

Topography

Stow stands on a high limestone ridge in the Cotswolds, at 229m OD. This elevated location is reflected in the affix 'on the Wold', referring to this high ground (Smith 1964, 225). The town lies at the junction of a number of routeways. The Fosse Way (modern A429) is a major Roman road between Exeter and Lincoln, of military origin: a portion of the agger survives adjacent to the modern road to the southwest of Stow (GSMR 6561). Another ancient routeway crosses the Fosse Way at Stow, called the 'Cotswold Ridgeway' (Elrington and Morgan 1965, 142). This routeway is followed by the B4068 to

the west of the town, then by Sheep Street, Park Street, Oddington Street and the A436 (Douthwaite and Devine 1996).

Prehistoric period

The earliest settlement evidence relates to a large prehistoric enclosure (Stow Camp), which underlies the eastern part of the historic town. The existence of an Iron Age hillfort under the town was suggested in the 19th century, partly based on the place-name Maugersbury. This place-name was documented in AD 949 as *Maethelgeres Byrig*, in which the element indicates a fortification which can be inferred to be an Iron Age hillfort (Leech 1981, 79). A number of substantial enclosure ditches have been recorded in archaeological evaluations in the east of the town. This fieldwork demonstrated the existence of a large prehistoric ditched enclosure, and that the earliest enclosure ditch dated to the Bronze Age (Douthwaite and Devine 1996; GSMR 239). It has been suggested that the church may lie outside the area of the prehistoric enclosure (Leech 1981, 79), and this would suggest that the development site also lies outside the enclosure. However this is not conclusive.

Roman period

Although Stow lies on the Fosse Way, little evidence for Roman occupation has been recorded in the town (Douthwaite and Devine 1996). However fourth century coins and a ring were found next to the Old Grammar School (Douthwaite and Devine 1996; GSMR 6992). A north-south aligned (but undated) burial was found in the 19th century in the north-east corner of Market Square, and may be of Roman date (Douthwaite and Devine 1996; GSMR 2707). The archaeological evidence suggests a Romano-British settlement may lie in the general area of the church, close to the Roman road.

Early medieval period

It is believed that Stow formed part of the estate of Maugersbury in the early medieval period: the estate was given to the monastery of Evesham before AD 714 by King Coenred of Mercia (Smith 1964, 225). The earliest recorded forms of the place-name are Edwardstow (*Eduuardesstou*, 1086), and Stow St Edward (*Stowe S Edwardi*, 1260), where 'stow' indicates a religious site or a church (Smith 1964, 225). The church of St Edward is recorded in Domesday Book, together with a priest (Moore 1982). The settlement is clearly named from the church dedicated to St Edward, martyred in AD 978 (Smith 1964, 225).

The settlement of Maugersbury lies at distance from Stow and the Iron Age hillfort. This village may have been the early medieval settlement focus, based on an interpretation of the topographic and place-name evidence (Elrington and Morgan 1965, 144). This would suggest that church and settlement were spatially distinct, and that this was probably the case in 1086 (Douthwaite and Devine 1996). The provisionally-identified early medieval church would have had an extensive churchyard, larger than the present churchyard. A number of inhumation burials were found immediately west of the Old Grammar School in the (?)1970s, which were undated (GSMR 2707). It is possible that these are post-Roman or early medieval burials.

High medieval period

The market town of Stow was developed by Evesham Abbey. The settlement was operating a commercial centre by the 12th century and had probably achieved borough status (Douthwaite and Devine 1996). Markets were held on Thursdays, and annual fairs

in August. Four merchants are recorded in Stow in 1341, and in the early fourteenth century there was a flourishing textile industry with dyers, weavers, a shearman and a tailor. A tanner and two shoemakers are also recorded (Douthwaite and Devine 1996; Elrington and Morgan 1965). The large regular Market Square was the focus of the medieval town, and this is clearly reflected in the arrangement of long narrow burgage plots aligned on Market Square (Ordnance Survey 1885; Douthwaite and Devine 1996).

The location of the medieval town on a major long-distance routeway led to a significant role for victualling in the town's economy in the medieval period. In 1381 the main taxpayers were eight brewers, one taverner and an innkeeper (Clapham 2000, 16).

Urban morphology

No detailed morphological analysis of the town plan has been undertaken, although the town plan has been discussed by a number of authors (Elrington and Morgan 1965, Leech 1981, Douthwaite and Devine 1996). The depiction of Stow in the 17th century by Ogilby (1675) shows little detail, although it does shows that the main traffic route through the town from south to north was via the Fosse Way, Sheep Street, Church Street, Market Square, and High Street. The 1885 Ordnance Survey plan depicts the whole town for the first time, with clearly depicted narrow burgage plots aligned on Sheep Street and Market Square (Ordnance Survey 1885; Fig 5). This plan has been used as the basis for defining the historic core of Stow by Leech (1981, map 40) and Douthwaite and Devine (1996). The plan produced by Leech is reproduced here for ease of reference (Fig 4).

The layout of the town to the east of the Fosse Way, a major through route, is explained by the fact that the road formed the boundary of estate held by Evesham Abbey. Documentary evidence indicates that houses on the west side of the Fosse Way were demolished in the late 12th century: these houses lay outside Stow and were competing with the Abbot's town (Elrington and Morgan 1965, 144). It has been suggested that the church was the earliest feature of the town (Elrington and Morgan 1965, 144; see also discussion above). However, if this is the case, then the churchyard has probably been truncated by later plots and streets.

In terms of urban morphology, the Fosse Way forms a pre-existing topographic feature, and the 'Cotswold Ridgeway' followed by Sheep Street is similarly an ancient topographic feature. In terms of urban morphology it could be suggested that Sheep Street was an early street, as it articulates directly with the Fosse Way. Sheep Street is first documented in 1684 (Smith 1964, 225). The part between Church Street and Digbeth Street was called 'New Street' in 1457, and the western part was called 'Back Lane' in 1608, which has been interpreted as evidence that Sheep Street was a minor road in the late medieval period (Leech 1981, 80). It is clear that the Market Square was laid out in the medieval period and formed the commercial centre of the medieval town in the high medieval period and in the post-medieval period. The documentary evidence relating to Sheep Street suggests that it was of secondary importance in the late medieval and post-medieval period. However the morphology of the settlement suggests that Sheep Street could be an earlier part of the medieval town, with Market Square a later addition.

The plots on the south side of Sheep Street are regular and have a rear access lane ('Back Walls') which forms the southern boundary of the borough (Ordnance Survey 1885; Fig 5). On both sides of Sheep Street there are lanes which run back perpendicular to the street and linking to the rear access lane. The plots on the north side of Sheep Street are less regular than those on the south side. The development site occupies a number of plots, within an irregular block of temement plots framed by the Fosse Way on the west, Sheep Street on the south, Church Street on the east, and Church Walk (a rear access lane) on the

north. The western tenement plots in this block are not perpendicular to Sheep Street, but show a marked curvature to the west to join Church Walk perpendicularly. The layout of plots has been modified by the development of the Unicorn Hotel (see below) and the construction of buildings on Church Walk. These plots can be identified as medieval in origin, although the reason for the curvature is not apparent. The plot boundaries are followed by post-medieval and modern boundary walls built of rubblestone and brick.

Post-medieval period

Stow remained a prosperous small town the post-medieval period (Johnson 1980, 1994). The town was an important transport centre, lying at the junction of long-distance routes. The number of alehouses in Stow rose considerably in the post-medieval period, to 15 in 1635, and to 29 in 1735 (Clapham 2000, 16). The Unicorn Hotel has been identified as being on the site of a 17th century alehouse called 'The Apothecaries Tavern' (Clapham 2000, 16).

The Unicorn was built around 1735 (Clapham 2000, 16,). Clapham (2000, 16) identifies a mounting block on the Fosse Way façade (but see below). The Unicorn grew in conjunction with the growth of the town. The wool industry made the town prosperous and allowed a large number of inns and businesses to thrive side by side. Later in the period the town tried to develop into a spa town like Cheltenham and Bath and even built a pump house for the purpose. This did not increase the number of visitors but the introduction of the railway did, and Stow became a place to visit and to see. Therefore the coaching inns were needed and developed with the greater trade (Johnson, 1994)

There is considerable documentary detail for the Unicorn in the 19th century. In 1830 Pigot's directory lists the Unicorn as an inn and posting house. A coach, the Royal Defiance, left the Unicorn every morning (except Sunday) and travelled to the closest railway station at Faringdon (Pigot 1830, p387-388). In 1842 and 1844 the Unicorn Inn is listed in Pigot as a commercial and posting house and coaches were still conveying visitors to the railway (Pigot 1842 and 1844). Slater's directory of 1852 lists the Unicorn Hotel under Inns and calls it a coach house, posting house and inland revenue office. A coach, the Royal Mail, left to Moreton-in-the-Marsh, every evening at seven (except Sunday) and to Oxford every morning at eight (except Sunday) (Slater 1852, p 152). Kelly's directory of 1856 lists the Unicorn under three sections. As a trade under Mary Ann Apletree it was a hotel and posting house, the holder of petty court sessions on alternate Thursdays, and an Excise Office with James Weaver as the collector (Kelly 1856, Stow Traders Public establishments). Slater's directory describes it as 'a very respectable and comfortable house'. The Unicorn Hotel was a commercial, family and posting house and inland revenue office (Slater 1858). Harrison's directory of 1859 mentions the petty sessions and also the excise office (Harrison 1859). The Post Office directory of 1863 lists the Unicorn Hotel as an excise office (Kelly 1869). Morris directory of 1876 says the county courts were held monthly at the Unicorn (Morris 1876, p351)and Kelly's directory of 1885 just lists the Unicorn Hotel as having a landlord (Kelly 1885). Around this time a Court building was constructed purely to hold petty sessions and Kelly's directory for 1894 lists that petty sessions were no longer at the Unicorn and that the Talbot Inn was the posting house (Kelly 1894). The 1885 Ordnance Survey plan shows the Unicorn Hotel as a building on Sheep Street and a substantial block on the Fosse Way (Fig 5).

Twentieth century

Twentieth century Ordnance Survey plans show no dramatic changes to the buildings in the development area, but do show a number of small-scale changes to rear buildings and boundary walls between 1902 and 1976 (Figs 6, 7 and 8). The 1976 plan shows that most of the minor back-plot buildings shown on the 1885 plan were still in existence. Some of these buildings have been demolished subsequently, as for example the rear range to 'The Crook'.

Existing archaeological information

Archaeological sites registered with Gloucestershire Sites and Monuments Record and within or in the immediate vicinity of the study area are plotted in Figure 2 and summarised in Table 1.

SMR	OS grid	Site name/description	Date
reference/status	reference		
GSMR 17559. LB II	SP 19021 25692	The Unicorn Hotel, Sheep	Mid-C18th
		Street.	
GSMR 17665. LB II	SP 19031 25688	Extension to The Unicorn	Late C18th
		Hotel, Sheep Street	and C19th
GSMR 17560. LB II	SP 19053 25679	The Crook, Sheep Street	C18th
GSMR 17561. LB II	SP 19060 25676	Cotswold Cottage, Sheep	Early C18th
		Street.	
GSMR 6561		Fosse Way. Roman road from	Roman
		Exeter to Lincoln	

Table 1: Sites within the development area registered with Gloucestershire Sites and Monuments Record (GSMR)

SMR	OS grid	Site name/description	Date	
reference/status	reference			
GSMR 239	SP 1950 2590	Prehistoric enclosure known as	Bronze Age,	
		Stow Camp	(?)Iron Age	
GSMR 2707	SP 1910 2580	Burials, including a (?) Roman	(?)Roman;	
		burial NE of Market Square and	undated or (?)	
		undated burials next to the Old	early medieval	
		Grammar School	-	
GSMR 8255.	SP 19100 2575	St Edward's Church	C12th	
LBI				

Table 2: Sites outside the development area of particular relevance, registered with Gloucestershire Sites and Monuments Record (GSMR)

4. **Inventory of buildings**

The proposed development incorporates a wide range of historic buildings, representative of Cotswold building styles and traditions. The present buildings also include modern structures and all the buildings are shown on Figure 12.

All of the historic buildings were constructed using Cotswold limestone. This stone is abundant through out the Cotswold's region with the best, Great Oolite, found along an arc running from the north of Bath through Badminton and Northleach to just north of Burford. Almost every village had a quarry. The stone is usually of a creamy or pale golden colour and was used for all types of buildings from churches and large houses to cottages, farm buildings, field-walls, stiles and roof tiles. It was cut into ashlar blocks to be used for the frontage of buildings and was also used a small rubble stones which were roughly coursed. The stone was also easy to work because it was comparatively soft when first removed from the quarry. This meant that decorative stonework could used for very little cost and that mullioned windows were used much later than in most other places in the country (Clifton-Taylor 1972, 76-77).

4.1 **The Unicorn Hotel** (Plates 1-3)

The hotel consists of a classical-fronted building on Sheep Street that incorporates two other earlier buildings. It functioned as an inn and may have been used for housing coach travellers. A large bay window was added to the west elevation of this frontage allowing for further ground floor space. A large wing to the north of the inn, along the Fosse Way, was added to allow the inn to become a coaching hotel. One set of large double doors gave access on to a courtyard to allow the horses to be changed and the coaches to be turned around. At the north end of this building was a tall window onto a staircase that gave access from the ground to first floors. Therefore this building was used as a part of the hotel and not as staff accommodation. The coach house was arranged to the north of the site along Church Walk and likely had staff accommodation above this. Also around this yard was arranged a brew house and bottle house. The Unicorn was adjoined by two cottages and a large house with a bay window, to the east along Sheep Street. These were gradually taken into the use of the hotel and converted with the two cottages eventually becoming a bar area and the house a dining room. These would all have been part of the hotel, originally housing travellers and the trappings of a coaching inn and posting house. The local petty courts were held on the first floor of the Unicorn Hotel and a room was used as an excise office on the ground floor.

4.2 Kent House and The Crook (Plate 4)

Kent House is a tall narrow house. The exterior is rendered, possibly covering brick rather the Cotswold stone expected in Stow.

The Crook is a small cottage adjacent to the Cottage (to the west). It is built in roughly coursed rubble limestone.

4.3 **The Cottage** (Plate 5)

It is likely that the Cottage was originally two buildings built on a medieval plot. The western building was associated with the outbuildings to the exterior (see below) and was the first building on the plot. It was an ordinary dwelling. The eastern building was built onto the western building and adjoined to the 'The Barn' by an addition to the rear.

4.4 **'The barn'** (Plate 6)

This outbuilding was probably at one time used as a barn but it was not built as one. The south elevation has a first-floor doorway that would have led out onto a set of stairs, wooden or stone, to the ground. Below these stairs the original doorway has not been altered and internally there are a number of unusual features including a stone alcove. The building may have been used as a dwelling prior to its extension to the north and it certainly was following this extension as the internal first floor fireplace and quality doorways and windows of the extension show.

5. **Description of archaeological deposits**

Three test pits were observed and recorded (Fig 3). The deposits that were recorded were not archaeological excavated and the finds were not recovered stratigraphically. Therefore little information can be learned about the date of the deposits.

5.1 **Natural deposits**

Natural deposits were not recorded in any of the test pits.

5.2 **Test Pit 1**

Test Pit 1 measured 2.10m by 1.15m, and was 1.40m deep (Fig 3). A substantial rubblestone wall, aligned parallel to the west of the almshouses was observed (context 103). The wall was 0.50m wide and 0.85m high, and is undated. It appeared to be faced on the west side (adjacent deposits had not been removed). The east side was unfaced and was abutted by a layer up to 1.0m thick, of friable yellow-orange sandy clay with frequent small decayed limestone fragments (context 102). The wall may be a boundary wall revetting a bank, or possibly part of a stone-walled cellar. It is possibly of medieval date.

Contexts 102 and 103 were overlain by 0.5m of later deposits (probably of post-medieval date) including thin layers (105, 102) and topsoil (101).

5.3 **Test Pit 2**

Test Pit 2 measured 1.0m by 1.0m and was 0.80m deep (Fig 3). A sequence of banded deposits were observed in section, which incorporated limestone fragements (Contexts 202, 203 and 204). These deposits were undated but may be post-medieval in date. The deposits were overlaid by topsoil (context 201), 0.30m deep.

5.4 **Test Pit 3**

Test Pit 3 measured 0.80m by 0.80m and was 1.10m deep (Fig 3). The lower layer consisted of limestone rubble (context 304), identified as demolition rubble. It is undated. Context 304 was overlain by 0.60m of later deposits (contexts 303 and 302, probably post-medieval in date) and topsoil (context 301).

5.5 Artefact analysis

5.5.1 **Description of the assemblage**

The assemblage came from three engineer's test pits but was otherwise unstratified. As a result no *terminus post quem* dates have been assigned: the context numbers were assigned to the unstratified finds from each test pit. The assemblage was mixed and dated from the medieval to modern periods, and was moderately abraded. The assemblage is recorded in Tables 3 and 4.

Context	Material	Туре	Date range	Period	Count	Weight
100	Glass	Window		Modern	5	77
100	Tile	Floor tile		Modern	1	19
100	Tile	Kiln furniture		Medieval	2	697

100	Slate				3	40
100	Pottery			Post-medieval	14	289
100	Pottery		C19 th	Modern	22	190
100	Plastic			Modern	1	1
100	Bone				2	5
100	Glass	Vessel		Post-medieval/modern	40	370
100	Glass	Light bulb		Modern	3	13
100	Pottery	Flower pot		Post-medieval/modern	3	19
100	Iron	Nails			11	102
100	Iron			Post-medieval/modern	3	419
100	Drain			Modern	1	39
100	Cu alloy			Modern	1	2
100	Clay	Stem		Post-medieval	14	26
200	Copper			Modern	1	1
200	Pottery		C19th-C20th	Post-medieval	33	203
200	Asbestos			Modern	1	25
200	Pottery			Post-medieval	23	294
200	Bone					178
200	Plastic			Modern	1	7
200	Plaster			Modern	1	8
200	Clay	Stem		Post-medieval	11	39
200	Glass	Vessel		Modern	3	247
200	Pottery	Flower pot		Post-medieval/modern	3	218
200	Iron				4	146
300	Shell	Oyster			3	14
300	Iron	Buckle		Medieval to modern	1	18
300	Pottery			Post-medieval /	1	6
300	Clay	Bowl		Post-medieval	2	14
300	Clay	Stem		Post-medieval	9	33
300	Pottery	Medieval		Medieval	1	38
300	Pottery	Modern	19th c +	Modern 7		51
300	Pottery	Post-medieval		Post-medieval	18	505
300	Bone					805

Table 3The artefact assemblage

Context	Period	Fabric Name	Fabric	Date range	Count	Weight
			Number			(g)
100	Modern	Modern stone china	85	C19 th -C20 th	22	190
100	Post-medieval	Unknown Post-medieval	100		1	1
100	Post-medieval	Post-medieval red ware	78		2	16
100	Post-medieval	Stoneware	81		3	15
100	Post-medieval	Miscellaneous late	81.4		1	49
100	Post-medieval	Post-medieval orange ware	90		6	205
100	Post-medieval	Post-medieval buff ware	91		1	3
200	Modern	Modern stone china	85	C19 th -C20 th	33	203
200	Post-medieval	Post-medieval red ware	78		1	3
200	Post-medieval	Creamware	84		18	214
200	Post-medieval	Post-medieval orange ware	90		4	77
300	Medieval	Unknown medieval	99		1	38
300	Modern	Modern stone china	85	C19 th -C20 th	7	51
300	Post-medieval	Unknown post-medieval	100		1	17
300	Post-medieval	Post-medieval red ware	78		4	61

300	Post-medieval	Post-medieval red ware	78?	1	15
300	Post-medieval	Tin glazed ware	82	1	1
300	Post-medieval	Post-medieval orange ware	90	11	411

Table 4 The pottery fabrics

5.5.2 **Discussion of the artefact assemblage**

There did not seem to be any significant differences between the assemblages from each test pit. The majority of the material recovered was pottery and other material (vessel glass, clay pipe, bone) was consistent with domestic occupation in the post-medieval and modern periods. All the post-medieval and modern material recovered is commonly found during excavations throughout the region.

The small amount of medieval material recovered included one sherd of pottery, which could be associated with domestic activity, but also two pieces of tile with regular conical holes through them. Both pieces are glazed (possibly accidentally) and may have been used as kiln furniture in a pottery kiln (L Griffin, pers comm).

6. Interpretation of the standing buildings, archaeological deposits and past land-use

The following interpretation is preliminary. It is based on a morphological study, and limited archaeological evidence. A building review was carried out, rather than a detailed survey and analysis of the structures. Therefore the below phasing may alter following more in-depth analysis of the structures or further archaeological information. The results are summarised in a morphological plan (Fig 9) and a phase diagram of the buildings (Fig 10).

6.1 Medieval (and undated)

Structural evidence of the medieval period did not come to light during the building recording. There was however limited archaeological evidence for the medieval period. It was also possible to provisionally depict the layout of medieval plot boundaries (Fig 9).

The artefacts recovered by the contractors who dug the test pits included limited quantity of medieval artefacts. Natural deposits were not recorded in any of the test pits (Fig 3), and it is clear that there is a substantial build-up of undated (?medieval) and post-medieval archaeological deposits in the development area.

Test Pit 1 exposed a substantial dry-stone wall (context 103), 0.50m wide and <0.90m high, on a similar alignment to other boundaries. The wall was buried beneath 0.50m of post-medieval deposits. No good dating evidence was recorded, but the wall is not shown on the 1885 Ordnance Survey plan (Fig 5). It was not clear from the test pit whether this wall represented simply a boundary wall or a part of a building. The height of the wall and the depth of overlying deposits is certainly significant, and it is possible that wall 103 is of medieval date.

In Test Pit 3, a thick and consolidated layer of limestone rubble (context 303) was observed beneath 0.60m of post-medieval deposits. The rubble layer was more than 0.60m thick, and such a depth of deposit is certainly of interest. A small building (perhaps an earth closet) is depicted in this area on the 1885 Ordnance Survey plan (Fig 5), and it is possible that the partly exposed feature is a backfilled post-medieval cess pit. However the possibility that the deposit is of medieval date should not be discounted.

The 1885 Ordnance Survey plan (Fig 5) shows a number of plot boundaries. Examination of the available maps, limited archaeological evidence (see above) and detailed examination of the standing buildings (see below and Fig 10), suggests that a number of medieval tenement plot boundaries can be defined morphologically (Fig 9). Figure 9 may approximate to the late medieval layout of this part of Stow.

A number of points can be made about Figure 9. The principal historic frontage was on Sheep Street, and Fosse Way (despite its importance as a routeway) was of lesser importance (the historical reasons for this are discussed above). It is suggested that Church Walk originally extended to the Fosse Way without a dogleg, and that a lane ran from Sheep Street to Church Walk, along the eastern side of the buildings on the boundary of the development site. A number of such lanes between plots are shown on the 1885 Ordnance Survey plan (Fig 5) and are still extant along Sheep Street (see below for discussion of the building evidence).

A curving alignment can be detected in at least four plot boundaries, and is surmised in others. This feature is of interest, as medieval tenement plots laid out over open ground are usually very regular (compare the plots on the south side of Sheep Street, Figure 5). Such curving alignments are usually due to pre-existing topographic features such as streams, tracks or other major boundary features. In this case, it is possible that Church Walk represents such a pre-existing boundary feature. It is perhaps on the same alignment as an earlier boundary or trackway, which predated the laying out of plots on Sheep Street in the medieval period.

6.2 Sixteenth century and seventeenth century

In the sixteenth century a narrow building was standing on the corner of Sheep Street and Fosse Way. The only surviving evidence of this structure is now encased within the later buildings of the Unicorn Hotel but it can be seen by the thickness of the fireplace wall of the snug and the curve seen on the exterior of the building at first floor level (Plate 7). The structure is set back from Sheep Street, on a medieval burgage plot that stretched back to Church Walk. This building may have been part of a larger sixteenth century building that fronted Sheep Street or was an extension to an earlier building that also fronted Sheep Street. The building was built using coursed rubble Cotswold limestone as was typical of the stonework of the period, an example of which can be seen on the Old Grammar School on the corner of Church Walk and Church Street (Plate 8).

In the seventeenth century a building was constructed adjacent to the earlier building described above. The only surviving evidence is a gable to the rear of the original Unicorn building on Sheep Street. Again the building was set back from Sheep Street on a medieval burgage plot but was either an entirely new seventeenth century building or an extension to an earlier building on the Sheep Street frontage. The gable was built in coursed rubble limestone (Plate 9). It incorporates a timber that may suggest another structure adjoined the rear of the building or is part of this structure. Documentary evidence suggests that the Unicorn was built on the site of a 17th century inn, The Apothecaries Arms (Clapham 2000, 16). This building could be the only remaining fabric from this earlier inn.

Neither of these early buildings would have been sitting alone on Sheep Street but they were part of a settlement plan that had been laid out in the medieval period. They were surrounded by burgage plots containing buildings of similar ages, possibly some surviving from the medieval period, which were used as houses, shops, stables, inns and probably had brewing, tanning, smithing and other industries taking place on the adjoining land.

6.3 **Early eighteenth century**

In the early eighteenth century the western section of The Cottage and the southern section of 'the barn' were built, possibly on the site of earlier buildings. The boundary of these buildings seems to follow a probable medieval boundary. The Cottage was built with rough coursed rubble Cotswold limestone (Plate 10) and has carved stone mullioned windows (Plate 11). As today it sat in a row of houses that fronted onto Sheep Street. An alley probably ran down the eastern side of the buildings and the house was accessed from this alley. 'The barn' has a window that would have looked on to this alley. 'The barn' was also built with rough coursed rubble Cotswold limestone (Plate 12). This building was associated with the house on Sheep Street and may have been used as industrial building for a business run from the house. A small alcove within the building (Plate 13) is probably evidence of the industry employed in the building. The first floor of the barn had access from the ground floor by an exterior staircase with a door built at first floor in the southern gable (Plate 14). Below this door is a solid stone ledge indicating steps, probably wooden, came up to this position. Access to the building was from an alley along the side of the house (Figure 9). An example of this type of alley can be seen today further down Sheep Street. These lanes allowed access to the rear of the buildings built on Sheep Street. It is likely that the lane ran back to Church Walk through the gap between the two almshouses. Therefore the lane must predate the almshouses and was probably laid out as a boundary in the medieval period.

6.4 Mid eighteenth century

Around 1735 The Unicorn Hotel was built of ashlar limestone with a classical frontage on Sheep Street (Plate 15) although the rear of the property is of coursed rubble limestone. The Unicorn building incorporated the remains of the sixteenth and seventeenth century structures. It is likely that it was a coaching inn at this time and therefore would have had stabling and other associated structures at the rear and possibly along Fosse Way. As it was an inn then a brewery would have been found somewhere close to the building if not as part of its own ancillaries.

Also around this time the eastern half of The Cottage was built (Plate 16). This building is either a replacement of an earlier structure or more likely was built as an infill of an alley running to the east of the cottage. At this time the two structures were separate but they were later joined to create a large house on Sheep Street.

6.5 Late eighteenth century

In the late eighteenth century two cottages were built to east of the Unicorn on Sheep Street (Plate 17). These were probably part of a redevelopment of the Sheep Street frontage and houses may have been built down to The Cottage. Little remains of the interior of these two cottages although the frontage remains intact. It is built of rough rectangular coursed stones and has beautifully carved door surrounds (Plate 18). They were not built as part of the Unicorn Hotel and probably had associated buildings to the rear such as a privy, stabling or workshops.

The Crook was probably built at this period but it is difficult to date, as the building has not been inspected internally.

6.6 **Early nineteenth century**

In the early nineteenth century a double height bay window was built against the west elevation of the Unicorn Hotel (Plate 19). This date of this extension seems to coincide with the sale of the Unicorn around 1808 (GRO D2080/372) and is probably the result of the new owner wanting to upgrade the hotel. A large window like this was built to be seen but also to let in light to rooms that were being publicly used. It was for looking out of and on the ground floor was probably a lounge on the first floor the room was probably a dining room. Around this time the Unicorn started being used to hold petty court sessions and they were possibly being held in this first floor room. The bay window was used to show the status the hotel then had.

Also at this time 'The Barn' had an extension built onto its north gable. This extension is built of the same stone but the stones are shaped into more regular rectangular pieces (Plate 20). The door and window surrounds (Plate 21) are of fine quality and indicate that this extension was used for domestic purposes rather than the industrial use of 'The Barn'. It is possible that the business was expanding and the extension was used to house a manager or foreman. 'The Barn ' and the Cottage were joined together at this time and it is therefore likely that the two houses on Sheep Street had already been amalgamated into one large house, the Cottage. The extension between the house and 'The Barn' may have been used as part of the industrial business taking place in the outbuilding or more likely was used as an extension to the house. The addition of this building cut off the first floor access for 'The Barn' and therefore an internal staircase must have been added.

6.7 **Early-mid nineteenth**

The early-mid nineteenth century saw a large extension along the Fosse Way being added to the rear of the Unicorn (Plate 22). This building also extended along Church Walk (Plate 23) and seems to have resulted in the route of Church Walk being altered (Figure 9). The building on the frontage of Fosse Way had a large gateway that was used for access to a courtyard. Coaches would drive through the gateway to change horses, drop off passengers and turn the coach around. A small door (described as a mounting block in Clapham) next to the gateway (Plate 24) led into a traveller's room where passengers could wait. The frontage also had a large ground to roof window (Plate 25) that suggests the position of an internal staircase. It is therefore likely that the hotel was using the first floor as accommodation for guests and the ground floor was used as stabling. It seems likely that the building along Church Walk was being used as a coach house on the ground floor with room for two coaches and the staff accommodation was probably on the second and third floors. During this period the town of Stow was expanding due to the number of visitors arriving by train and coach. The Unicorn Hotel had daily coaches to Moreton-onthe-Marsh and Oxford and to the local railway station at Faringdon.

6.8 Mid nineteenth century

In the mid nineteenth century a large house was built to the east of the cottages attached to the Unicorn. This building is an impressive typical Victorian town house built of ashlared stone and has a large bay window (Plate 26). It was probably built as a residence for one of the merchants of Stow that had acquired money through the increased wealth of the town due to the wool trade. It had a range to the rear that consisted of the kitchen, wash house and other ancillary buildings.

In the late 19th century the hotel took over the adjacent cottage to the east, as depicted on the 1885 Ordnance Survey plan (Fig 5). The town of Stow had been growing in wealth

and was being visited by large numbers of people, all of which needed a place to stay. The cottage was probably used as a lounge on the ground floor and bedrooms on the first floor. The hotel was also being used for more diverse functions and needed extra space to hold the petty courts and to house an excise office.

6.9 Late nineteenth century

In the late nineteenth century the hotel took over the next cottage along Sheep Street and the Victorian house adjacent to this. These are shown as part of the hotel on the 1902 Ordnance Survey plan (Fig 6). Following their amalgamation into the hotel, large service ranges were built to rear of the buildings. These were being used as bedrooms on the first floor but probably had the kitchens, stables, brew house, bottle room and other work uses in them on the ground floor.

Also in the late nineteenth century Kent House (Plate 27) and two sheds (Plates 28 and 29) to its rear were built. Both the house and sheds are shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map of 1885 (Fig 5). The interior of Kent House was not surveyed due to it being in private ownership at the time. The sheds were constructed against the existing boundary wall between Kent House and The Crook and were probably built as a wash house and privy for use by Kent House.

6.10 **Twentieth century**

The twentieth century saw large remodelling of the hotel to what we see today. A new entrance was created in the early part of the century. This involved the removal of the large window on the Fosse Way elevation and a large arch created on the ground floor (Plate 30). The stone surround of this is very different to the surrounds of the other openings on the elevation. This arch was created to allow motorcars to enter in to the garaging that had been created from the coach house. It is likely that the original coach entrance was also blocked up at this time.

The sheds to the rear of Kent House were also substantially remodelled in the twentieth century. Both of the west elevations have been rebuilt at different times in stone and concrete (Plate 31) and the current entrances are not in their original position. A blocked opening on the southern elevation indicates the position of a possible window opening (Plate 32).

7. **Conclusions and implications**

The inspection and photographic recording of The Unicorn Hotel at Stow revealed a significant amount of information. The complex of historic buildings within the proposed development site is quite varied, dating between the 16th and 19th century, with more modern additions. The morphology of the tenement plots and the limited archaeological evidence point to medieval occupation of the whole street frontage, perhaps dating from the early 12th century.

The broader assessment of archaeological, historical and topographic evidence indicates that the development site lies within an area of considerable archaeological significance. The relationship of the development site to the large prehistoric enclosure of Bronze Age and (?)Iron Age date, the possible Romano-British settlement, and to the early medieval church, are all research questions of considerable importance (see Section 3).

An outline of the proposed development has been developed by Andrew Eastabrook Architects. A number of specific implications of proposed changes have been identified below and are shown on Figure 11.

7.1 Hotel refurbishment

The general planned refurbishment of the entire complex of buildings can be expected to be generally beneficial to the historic building as a group. However careful review of proposals will be required so that historical character and historically significant features are not lost. An in-depth analysis of the range of buildings comprising The Unicorn Hotel needs to take place to fully understand the development of the buildings. Denrochronology dating of any timbers found in the roof spaces of all the structures would help distinguish the surviving sixteenth and seventeenth century fabric. During alterations to the main structure of the building it would be desirable that any of this surviving fabric is retained and that the rest of the building is treated in sympathetic manner.

7.2 **Conversion of 'The Barn'**

The building called 'The Barn' is proposed for complete refurbishment. The refurbishment of this building may involve the removal a large amount of original fabric and therefore it has implications for the survival of historically significant features. Further recording would be needed to fully understand its development and function. It would be desirable that as little as possible is done to alter the fabric of this building during the development.

7.3 **Demolition of boundary walls and sheds**

The boundary walls that currently define tenement plots are constructed of rubblestone or brick. Many of these boundary walls appear to preserve the alignments of historic tenement plots, which were laid out in the medieval period (Fig 9).

The easternmost boundary wall (to the rear of 'The Cottage' and the 'barn' to its rear) is rubblestone. This boundary wall probably represents a tenement plot boundary laid out in the medieval period. It has been suggested above that there was formerly a lane beyond this wall. This wall forms the boundary of the development site, and may be incorporated into the proposed swimming pool building. It would be desirable to preserve this wall and incorporate it into the development.

The rubblestone boundary wall that forms the perimeter of the yard to the rear of The Crook is of recent construction. The 1976 Ordnance Survey plan (Fig 7) shows that there was a range of buildings to the rear of The Crook, which appears to be the same as that shown on the 1885 plan (Fig 5). These buildings seem to have been demolished since 1976, and the present boundary wall constructed. The possible alignment of the original boundary is shown on Figure 9. One option that has been raised by Andrew Eastabook Architects is to demolish this wall and to open out the garden area. It is clear that this would not involve the loss of historic fabric.

The boundary wall between the garden of The Cottage and Kent House is rubblestone. This boundary is probably on the alignment of a tenement plot boundary laid out in the medieval period. One option that has been raised by Andrew Eastabook Architects is to remove this wall and to open out the garden area, and in particular views from the hotel. It would be desirable to preserve the historic grain of backplot area represented by this boundary wall. One option would be to rebuild the wall on its present alignment, but to cap it at 1.0m and incorporate it in the design of the garden.

The boundary walls between Kent House and the Hotel, and other walls to the west, are of modern construction. The pattern of building and rebuilding in this area seems to have preserved some elements of the historic layout of the area. There are two sheds on the west side of the boundary wall between the hotel and Kent House. These structures appear on the 1885 Ordnance Survey plan, but the buildings have been so much altered that very little of the original fabric still exists. The current sheds have merely followed the original form of the buildings when they were remodelled.

7.4 **Proposed swimming pool**

It is proposed that a swimming pool enclosed in a single storey building is built in the north-east corner of the development area. This building will incorporate two rubblestone boundary walls. A test pit in this area revealed deep but undated deposits incorporating a great deal of limestone rubble (see above). The construction of the swimming pool may have an impact on significant buried archaeological deposits, which relate to medieval occupation of tenement plots aligned on Sheep Street. It is also possible that deposits or artefacts relating to earlier occupation may survive in this area, including the Bronze Age enclosure, Roman-British settlement, or the early medieval church.

The existence of medieval or earlier deposits can be determined through archaeological evaluation of this area. Discussion with Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Section should lead to an appropriate mitigation strategy.

7.5 **Proposed furniture store**

It is proposed that a new building (a furniture store) is built against the boundary wall with Church Walk, west of the almshouses. This building will incorporate a rubblestone boundary wall. A test pit in this area revealed deep but undated deposits including a wall (either a boundary wall or part of a building). The construction of the furniture store may have an impact on significant buried archaeological deposits which relate to medieval occupation of tenement plots aligned on Sheep Street, or buildings facing Church Walk. It is also possible that deposits or artefacts relating to earlier occupation may survive in this area, including the Bronze Age enclosure, Roman-British settlement, or the early medieval church.

The existence of medieval or earlier deposits can be determined through archaeological evaluation of this area. Discussion with Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Section should lead to an appropriate mitigation strategy.

8. **Publication summary**

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, the Service intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

A heritage audit was undertaken on behalf of Birch Hotels and Inns Ltd at The Unicorn Hotel, Sheep Street, Stow on the Wold, Gloucestershire (NGR SP 1902 2569). The audit included the existing hotel and adjacent buildings in Sheep Street, and was undertaken in order to inform proposed refurbishment and reordering of all the buildings into a new hotel complex.

The audit identified a range of historic buildings, dating between the 16th and the 19th century, and established the outlines of the historic development of this part of Stow from the medieval period. The historic character of the individual buildings and associated back plots was established. Limited evidence for medieval occupation was recorded in test pits, although deep undated deposits were observed.

9. **The archive**

The archive consists of:

- 4 Fieldwork progress records AS2
- 4 Photographic record sheets AS3
- 3 Abbreviated context record AS40
- 1 Trench record sheets AS41
- 19 Scale drawings
- 1 Box of finds
- 1 Computer disk

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Corinium Museum Park Street Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 2BX Tel 01285 655611

10. Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project: Birch Hotels, Andrew Eastabrook, and Nick Molyneux.

11. **Personnel**

The fieldwork and report preparation were led by Shona Robson-Glyde, with contributions by Hal Dalwood and Anna Deeks. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Hal Dalwood. Fieldwork was undertaken by Anna Deeks and Shona Robson-Glyde with finds analysis by Erica Darch. The illustrations were prepared by Shona Robson-Glyde except for Figure 1 and 3. Carolyn Hunt prepared Figure 3 and Laura Templeton prepared Figure 1. Shona Robson-Glyde prepared the photographs.

12. **Bibliography**

CAS, 1995 (as amended) *Manual of Service practice: fieldwork recording manual*, County Archaeological Service, Hereford and Worcester County Council, report, **399**

Clapham, V (ed), 2000 Stow on the Wold: Glimpses of the past, Stow on the Wold and District Civic Society

Clifton-Taylor, A, 1972 The pattern of English building, London

Douthwaite, A, and Devine, V, 1996 Stow-on-the-Wold. Archaeological assessment, Gloucestershire Historic Towns Survey, unpublished report, Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service

Elrington, C R, and Morgan, K, 1965 Stow-on-the-Wold, in *The Victoria County History* of Gloucestershire, **6**, 142-165

Hurst, D, and Rees, H, 1992 Pottery fabrics; a multi-period series for the county of Hereford and Worcester, in S Woodiwiss (ed), *Iron Age and Roman salt production and the medieval town of Droitwich. CBA Res Rep,* **81**, 200–209

IFA, 1999a Standard and guidance for archaeological desk-based assessment, Institute of Field Archaeologists

IFA, 1999b Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief, Institute of Field Archaeologists

IFA, 1999c Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures, Institute of Field Archaeologists

Johnson, J, 1980 Stow-on-the Wold: a history of a Cotswold town. Alan Sutton

Johnson, J, 1994 Stow-on-the-Wold, Alan Sutton

Leech, R, 1981 *Historic towns in Gloucestershire: archaeology and planning,* Committee for Rescue Archaeology in Avon, Gloucestershire and Somerset, survey report **3**

Moore, J S (ed) 1982 Domesday Book: Gloucestershire, Chichester: Philimore

Ogilby, 1675 (1939) Britannia, volume the first, or an illustration of the kingdom of England and the dominion of Wales by a geographical and historical description of the roads thereof, reprint Alexandre Duckham (1939)

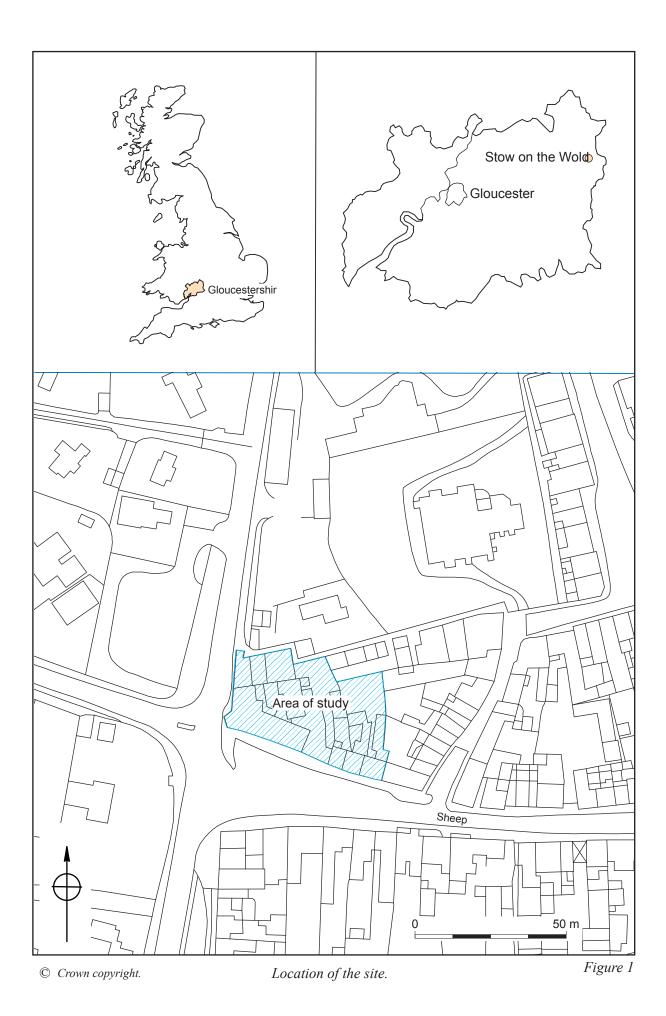
RCHME, 1996 *Recording historic buildings: a descriptive specification (3rd edition)*, Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England

Smith, A H, 1964 The place-names of Gloucestershire, parts I-III, Cambridge

Verey, D, 1979 Buildings of England. Gloucestershire: The Cotswolds

13. **Abbreviations**

- GSMR Numbers prefixed with 'GSMR' are the primary reference numbers used by the Gloucestershire County Sites and Monuments Record.
- GRO Gloucestershire County Records Office
- NMR National Monuments Record
- SMR Sites and Monuments Record



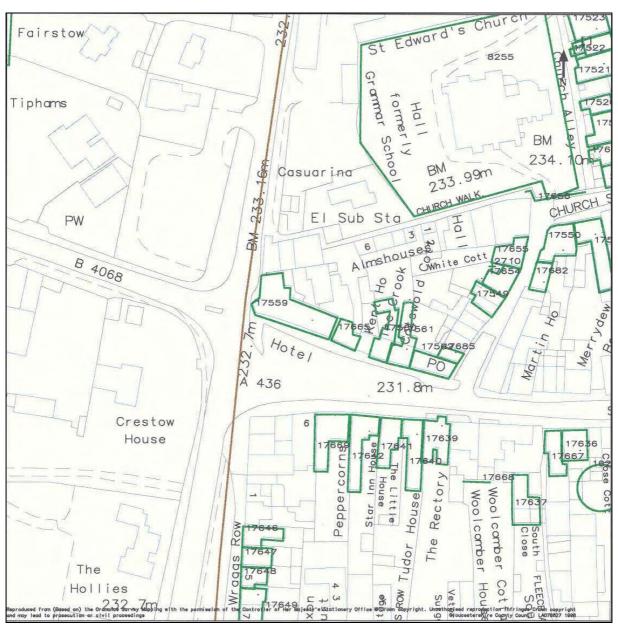
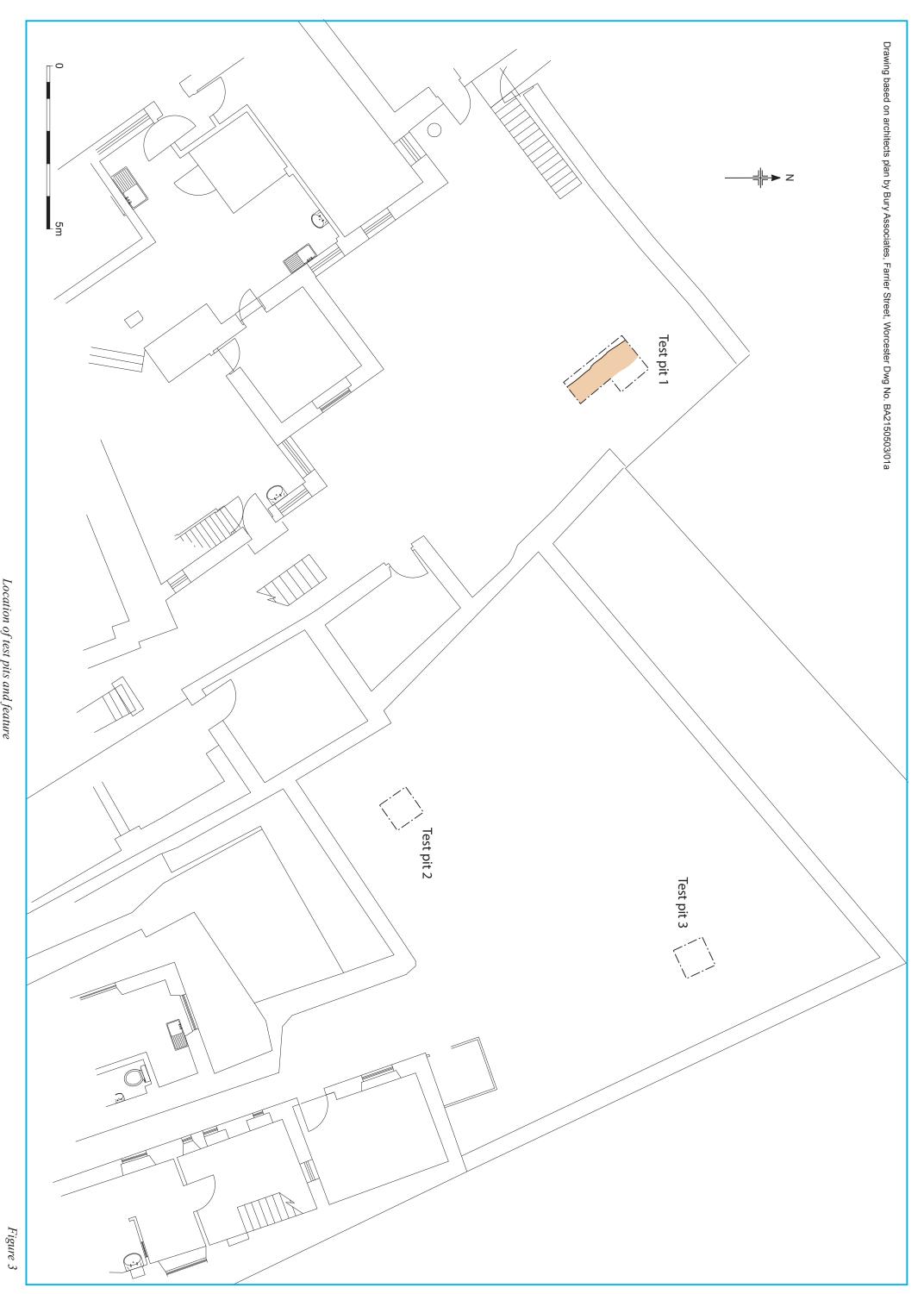


Figure 2: Gloucestershire SMR print out



Location of test pits and feature

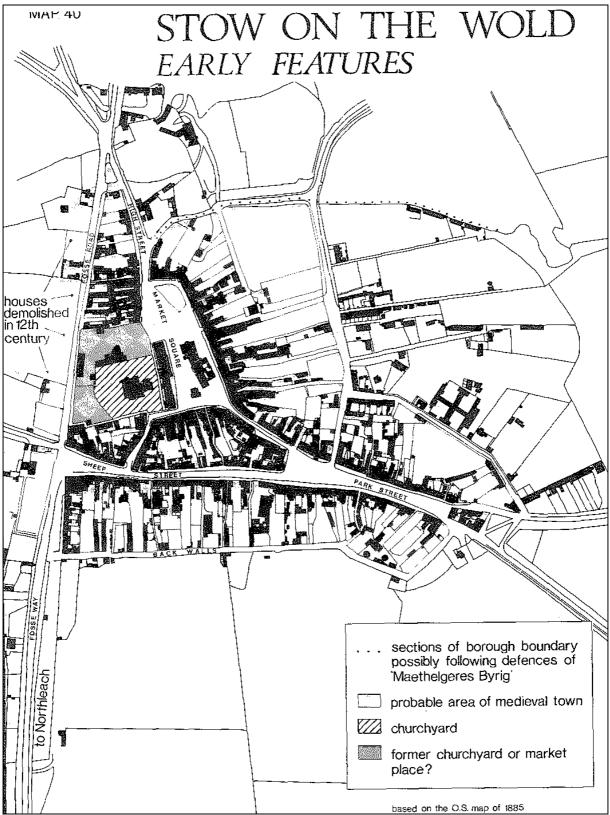


Figure 4: Early Features map of Stow (taken from Leech 1981)

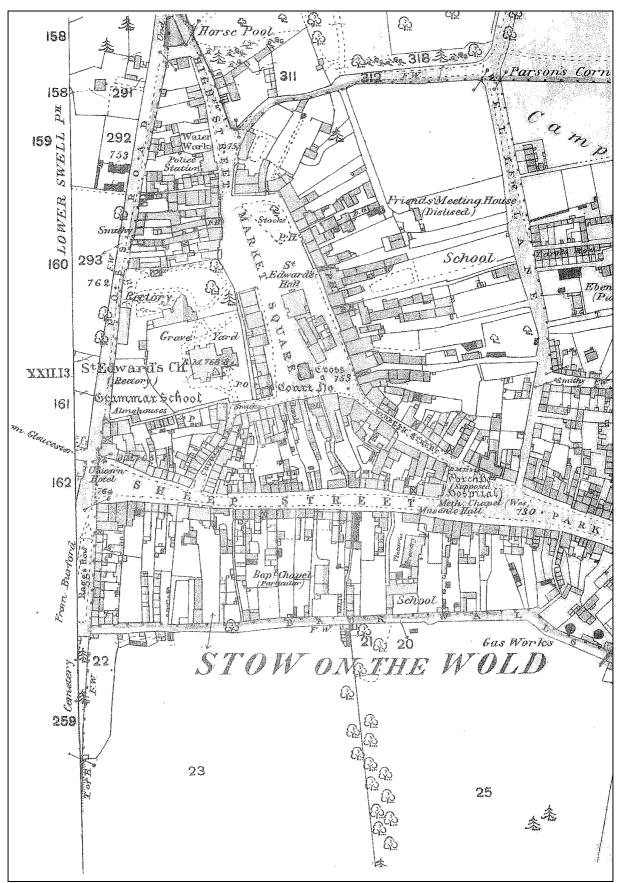


Figure 5: 1885 Ordnance Survey map

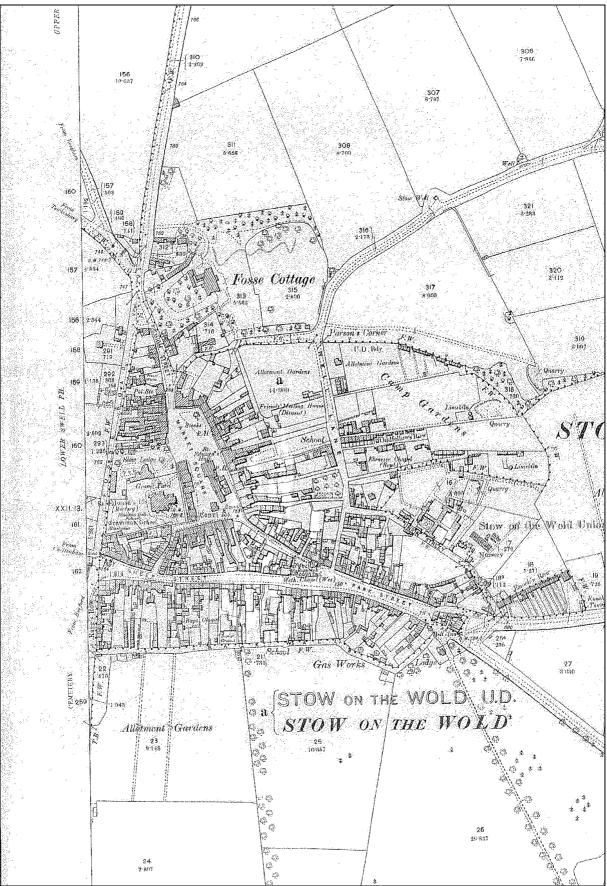


Figure 6: 1902 Ordnance Survey

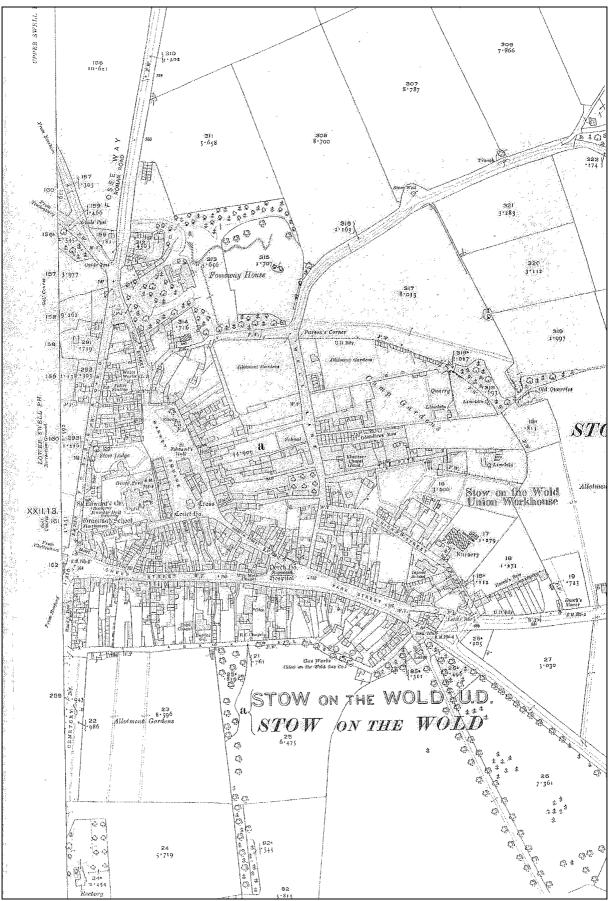
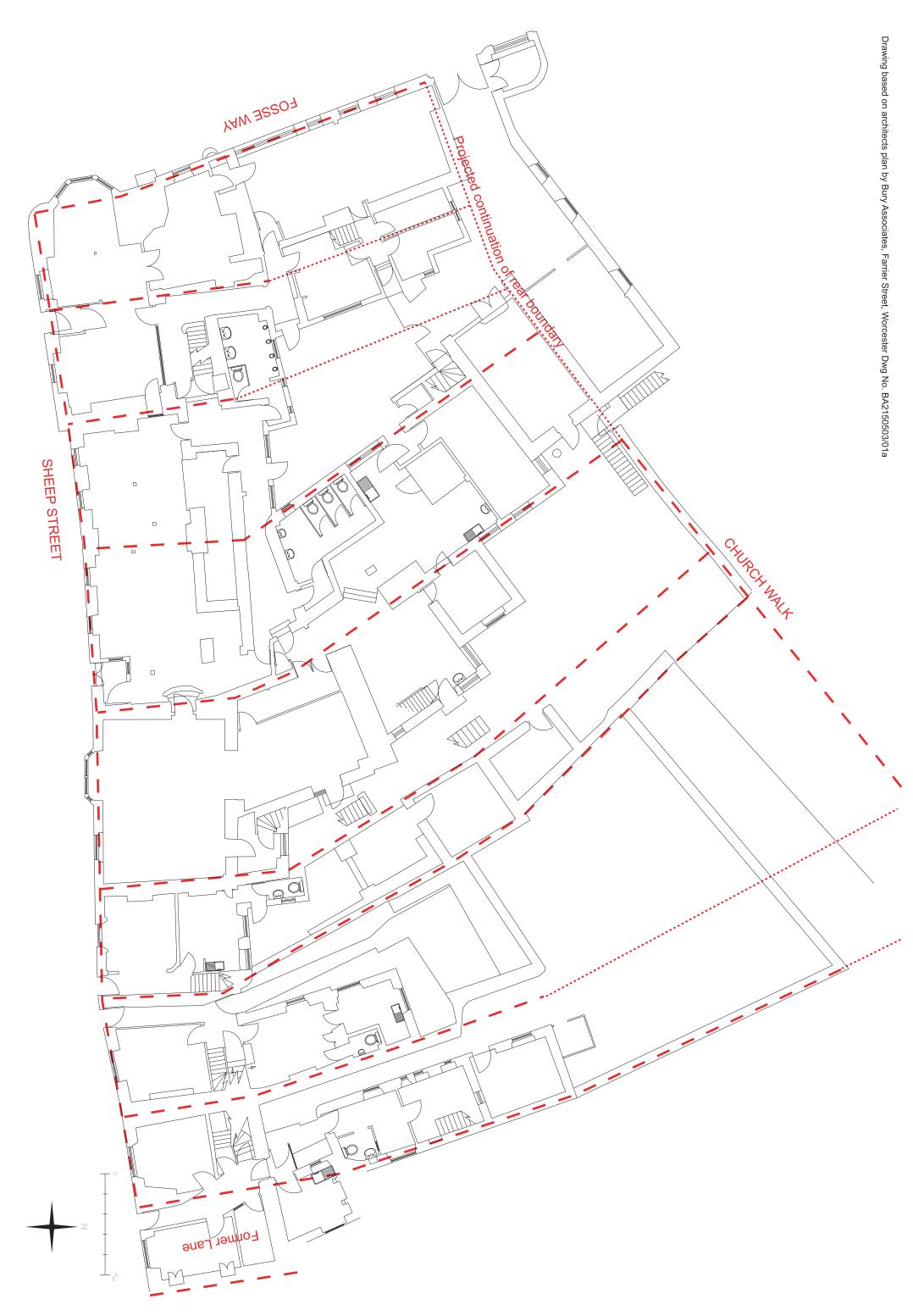


Figure 7: 1921 Ordnance Survey



Figure 8: 1976 Ordnance Survey



Morphological plan of the boundary plots



The Unicorn Hotel and its associated buildings

Figure 10

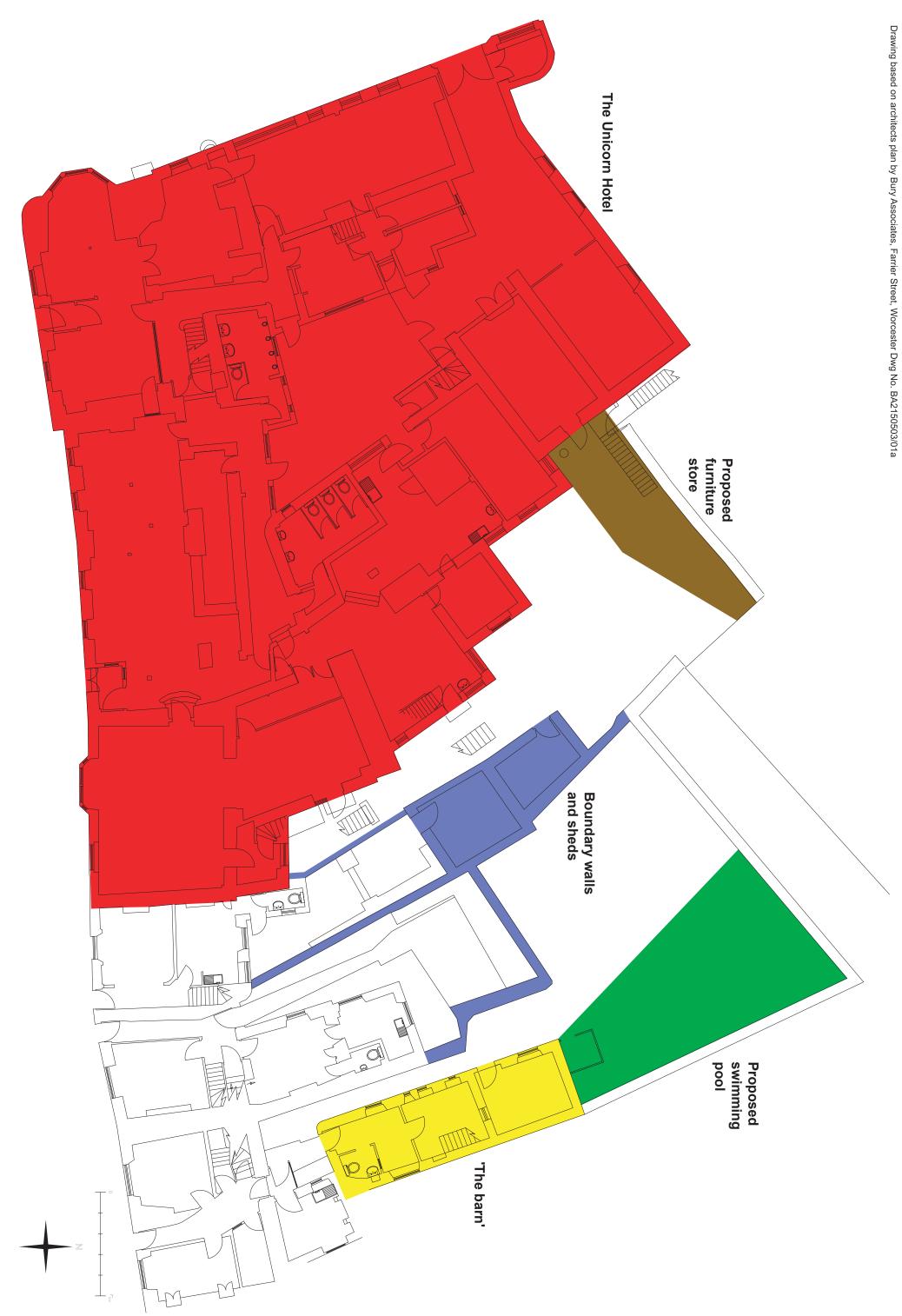
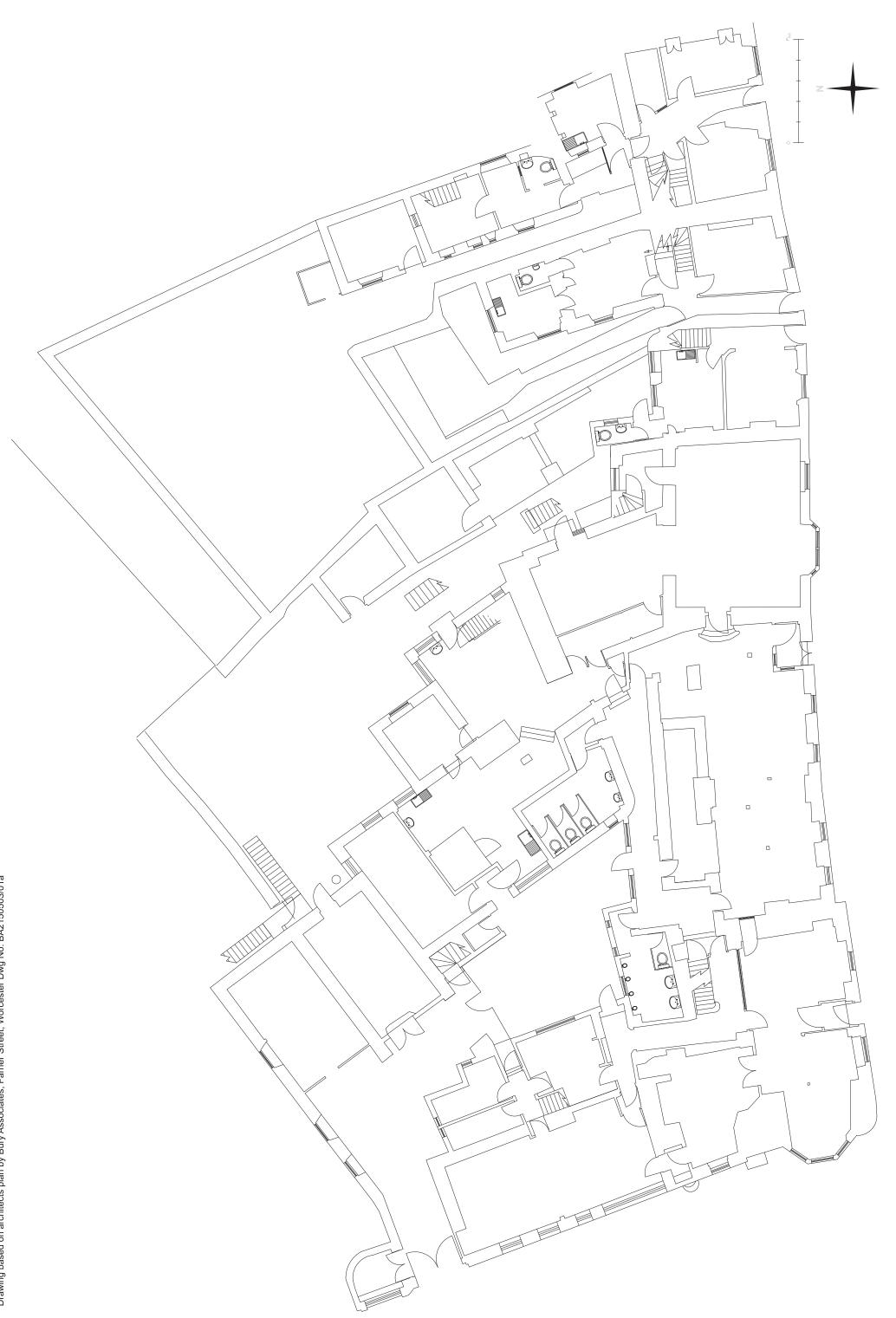


Figure 11



Building layout

Figure 12

Appendix 1 Plates

List of plates

Plate 1	The Unicorn Hotel
Plate 2	The Unicorn Hotel
Plate 3	The Unicorn Hotel
Plate 4	Kent House and The Crook
Plate 5	The Cottage
Plate 6	'The barn'
Plate 7	Curve in wall
Plate 8	Old Grammar School
Plate 9	Seventeenth century gable
Plate 10The Cottage	
Plate 11Stone mullions	
Plate 12'The barn'	
Plate 13Alcove	
Plate 14Door to 'the barn'	
Plate 15The Unicorn frontage	
Plate 16The Cottage	
Plate 17Cottages adjacent to Unicorn	
Plate 18Doorways to cottages	
Plate 19Bay window on Unicorn	
Plate 20'The barn' wall	
Plate 21'The barn' window	
Plate 22Unicorn extension	
Plate 23Unicorn extension	
Plate 24Small doorway	
Plate 25Unicorn c1920	
Plate 26Victorian house	
Plate 27Arch way	



Plate 1: The Unicorn Hotel, from the south



Plate 2: The Unicorn Hotel, from the south east

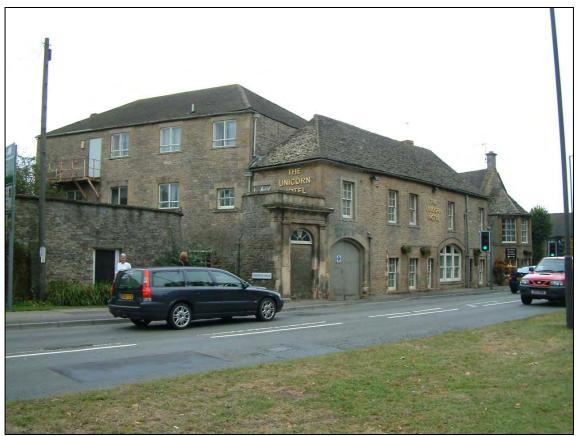


Plate 3: The Unicorn Hotel, from the north west



Plate 4: Kent House and The Crook (centre)



Plate 5: The Cottage (centre)



Plate 6: 'The barn' from the north



Plate 7: Curve in wall at first floor showing rear of sixteenth century

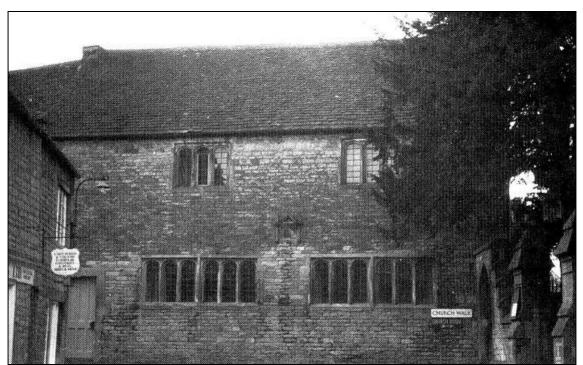


Plate 8: Old Grammar School, Stow (taken from Johnson 1994)



Plate 9: Seventeenth century gable at first floor



Plate 10: The Cottage from the south, left section is earlier



Plate 11: Stone mullions of oldest part of cottage



Plate 12: 'The barn'



Plate 13: Alcove in 'the barn'



Plate 14: First floor door in gable of 'the barn'.



Plate 15: The Unicorn Hotel frontage on Sheep Street



Plate 16: The Cottage, later part on right



Plate 17: Cottages adjacent to The Unicorn



Plate 18: Carved doorways of cottages adjacent to The Unicorn



Plate 19: Bay window on west gable of The Unicorn Hotel



Plate 20: Walling of the extension to 'the barn'



Plate 21; Window of 'the barn' extension



Plate 22: Extension of The Unicorn along Fosse Way



Plate 23: Extension of The Unicorn along Church Walk

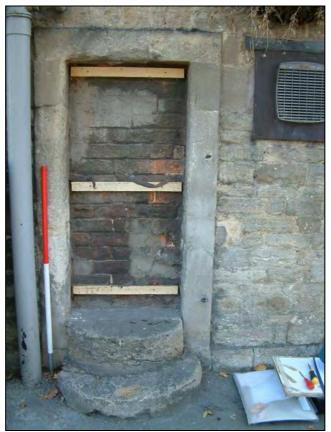


Plate 24: Small doorway in Fosse Way elevation



Plate 25: Phtograph of The Unicorn c1920 showing large window in place



Plate 26: Large Victorian house on Sheep Street



Plate 27: Kent House



Plate 28: Shed to the immediate rear of Kent House



Plate 29: Shed behind Kent House



Plate 30: Added arch on Fosse Way elevation

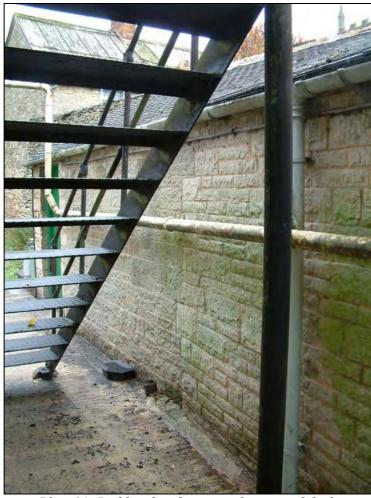


Plate 31: Building break in west elevation of sheds



Plate 32: Blocked opening on southern elevation of shed to the rear of Kent House.